

Claims

- [c1] A method for distributing content in a packet-switched network comprising the steps of:
- receiving from a client a request for content identified by a resource identifier;
 - querying a mapping service using the resource identifier of the content;
 - receiving a list of servers in the network that store the content identified by the resource identifier; and
 - redirecting the client to one of the servers using a second resource identifier.
- [c2] The invention of claim 1 wherein the client is redirected using protocol-based redirection.
- [c3] The invention of claim 1 wherein the client is redirected using a helper file.
- [c4] The invention of claim 1 wherein the resource identifier is a URN and the second resource identifier is a URL.
- [c5] A method for distributing content in a packet-switched network comprising the steps of:
- storing in a database a list of servers in the network that store content identified by a resource identifier;
 - updating the database as content stored on the servers change;
 - responding to queries requesting content identified by a resource identifier with the list of servers that store the content, wherein the list of servers can be used to redirect clients to one of the servers.
- [c6] The invention of claim 5 wherein the database has a centralized mapping server.
- [c7] The invention of claim 6 wherein the database is updated in response to update messages received from the servers.
- [c8] The invention of claim 5 wherein the database is distributed among servers in the network.

[c9]

The invention of claim 8 wherein updates to the database are not broadcast to the servers and wherein queries are broadcast to the servers.

For the purpose of this document